

such sites across the country. Brownfields cause economic blight by crowding out new businesses, preventing the creation of new jobs, and reducing municipal property tax revenues. They reduce the value of surrounding property and they can be public health problems.

Brownfields sites often require environmental remediation before they can be redeveloped and returned to productive use. At the very least, the prospect of significant remediation costs often discourages the redevelopment of such sites.

The 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act established a provision for expensing brownfield clean-up costs in certain targeted areas—empowerment zones, enterprise communities, EPA brownfields pilot project sites, and census tracts with high poverty rates. This provision can be an important tool for encouraging the clean-up and redevelopment of unproductive brownfield sites.

Unfortunately, however, the existing provision only allows expensing for expenditures or costs incurred between August 6, 1997, and December 31, 2000. That is too short a period of time for many potential users to take advantage of it. Consequently, I believe that this provision should be made permanent. The Administration shares that view and proposed making the provision permanent in the budget request that it submitted to Congress in February.

Today Congressman RANGEL and I are introducing legislation that would make the brownfields expensing provision permanent. Enactment of this legislation would provide much-needed help to many of the economically distressed communities across the country that are currently burdened with one or more brownfields sites. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

#### DECLARING STATE OF WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GOVERNMENT OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the truth is war is being waged and will continue to be waged without declaration. But such violence is neither redemptive nor justified in law or morality. Hope is redemptive, love is redemptive, peace is redemptive, but the violence of this conflict stirs our most primitive instincts. When we respond to such instincts, we enact the law of an eye for an eye, and we at last become blind and spend our remaining days groping to regain that light we had once enjoyed.

He only understands force, it is said of Mr. Milosevic, but we must understand more than force. Otherwise, war is inescapable. We must make peace as inexorable as the instinct to breathe, as inevitable as the sunrise, as predictable as the next day. With this vote, let us release ourselves from the logic of war and energize a consciousness of peace, peace through implied strength, peace through express diplomacy, peace through a belief that through nonviolent human interaction, we can still control our destiny.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN, DOCTORATE OF LAWS, BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the honorable Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, my dear friend, whose title of honorary Doctorate of Laws was conferred by Bethune-Cookman College on April 26, 1999. This honor is very highly deserved. I have had the honor and the immense pleasure of knowing and working with Yvonne for many years, and her name is synonymous with dedication and commitment towards the public good.

She is a master teacher, a superlative retired school principal, an effective city council member, a committed community activist, and an exemplary mother. Her dedication is beyond praise, for it is impossible to calculate the number of young students who have been inspired by Yvonne in her career. Like ripples in a pond, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden's kind acts towards her students served as catalysts for them, to enrich their own spheres of influence with the strong guidance and example of character which they have received.

After a long career as a highly popular teacher, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden became an energetic city council member, and she continues her fight for the underdog in yet another venue. Vibrant, bright, and always committed, the devotion of Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden to State of Florida has been an inspiration over the decades of our close friendship.

It is indeed one of my great pleasures to pay tribute to truly a great Floridian and, indeed, a such a great American, Dr. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, on the occasion of her achievement in being awarded the title of Doctorate of Laws by Bethune-Cookman College.

#### MCGRAW FAMILY TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNUAL REUNION

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of an occasion which will be celebrated in the County of Cortland in my district in Central New York State this summer. On July 18th, the McGraw family, along with the many guests who will join them, will hold their 50th Annual Reunion.

This wonderful tradition was begun in 1950 as a means of bringing together the large and distinguished McGraw family. Having settled in Cortland County in the 1850's in the wake of the Irish potato famine, the McGraws quickly became one of the most well-respected residents of the area. The most well-known member of this family, John Joseph McGraw, was the Manager of the New York baseball Giants from 1902 to 1932. Having won more games than any other manager in major league history, Mr. McGraw was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Today, as was the case fifty years ago at the time of the first McGraw reunion, the Cen-

tral New York area is indebted to the McGraw family for its many contributions to our community. I would like to express the sense of the many visitors and "honorary McGraws" who will travel from near and far to share in their celebration this summer in thanking them for making Central New York a better place, and in wishing them well in this and many family reunions to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE FUNDING FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 1999*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Homelessness Assistance Funding Fairness Act that will ensure that every state receives a minimum allocation of funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Continuum of Care" grant programs. I am introducing this legislation in conjunction with Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine. We have been working to address the challenges of meeting the needs of homeless people in a rural state for some time now, and I believe that this legislation represents an important step forward.

Homelessness is a problem that knows no boundaries. In every state, Americans find themselves without adequate shelter or access to affordable housing. Unfortunately, since the Continuum of Care grants are currently awarded on a competitive basis, some states may be denied funding in a given year.

Homelessness is also not limited to urban areas. In fact, rural homelessness is a significant problem and may pose even greater challenges due to geographical realities. Maine is a predominantly rural state. Homelessness is a growing problem, with more than 14,000 people currently believed to be homeless. While this number may seem relatively small, when we consider that the state's overall population is only 1.2 million, we recognize that there is in fact a significant problem.

In the past, Maine organizations have competed successfully for Continuum of Care funding. In fact, last year, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo visited several of Maine's homeless assistance projects and presented them with a "Best Practices" award in recognition of their excellent work. For that reason, it came as a shock when HUD announced in 1999 Continuum of Care grant recipients and we learned that no funds had been awarded to any Maine applicants.

In addition to Maine, three other states—Oklahoma, Kansas and North Dakota—were not awarded any Continuum of Care funding this year. The homeless of these four rural states are just as deserving and in need of assistance as the homeless of the other 46 states. Unfortunately, they are now facing drastic cuts in services and the outright elimination of many programs that have sought to provide housing and services to help break the cycle of poverty and dependency.

I respect the goals of the competitive funding process: to encourage excellence; to foster innovation; and to ensure that Federal taxpayers get the most "bang for their buck" when it comes to providing assistance to